

### NAFTA: STOP TAKING AMERICAN WORKERS TO THE CLEANERS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, we would all have enough money to pay for Medicare if the jobs in our country paid high enough wages to cover the cost of benefits. But, my friends, yesterday the Commerce Department reported again that our Nation is suffering the worst trade performance in our Nation's history.

In April through June of this year, our current account deficit, the broadest measure of trade performance, jumped to \$43.6 billion more in the whole, the worst results in history.

The key reasons cited for this worsening record are our growing trade debt with Mexico, and that translates into more lost jobs, more lost benefits in this country for our workers.

So now in Florida we have 100 more packinghouses out of business, ground to the ground, and 14,000 tomato workers out of work. In Milwaukee, WI, we have 7,000 more people laid off from Briggs & Stratton, jobs moved to Mexico, and in Topeka, workers at the Celophane plant there just had their wages cut to \$8 an hour from an \$11-an-hour level before.

Let us go back to the drawing boards, recast NAFTA and stop taking our workers to the cleaners in this country.

### GOP TAX CUTS: SOME FACTS

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, for months House Democrats have battered about tax cuts for the rich. They have distorted our plan to balance the budget and increase the take-home pay of working families as a mean-spirited attempt to provide a boondoggle to wealthy Americans and corporations.

Here are the facts: 74 percent of the largest tax cut in our budget, the \$500 per child tax credit goes to families earning less than \$75,000. This profamily tax break will remove 4.7 million families at the lowest income levels from the Federal income tax rolls.

Furthermore, 70 percent of the benefits of lower capital gains taxes go to families and individuals with incomes of less than \$50,000. And we must keep in mind that cutting capital gains taxes provides incentives for investment in new businesses and high paying jobs that benefit all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know about you, but working parents earning between \$50,000 and \$75,000 a year in my district do not consider themselves rich. We must start telling the truth about the GOP tax cuts. They are good for families and the economy. Allowing

families to keep more of what they earn and laying the foundation for long-term economic growth is not mean-spirited. It is exactly what the American people voted for last November.

### RATIFY THE CONVENTION TO END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

(Ms. HARMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, at the U.N. Fourth Conference on Women, it was the First Lady, Hillary Clinton, who said there is no one formula for how women should lead our lives.

I was there as a member of the bipartisan U.S. congressional delegation, and her remarks rang true to a crowd as diverse and multihued as it was experienced and dedicated. The label radical may fit a few—very few—attendees, but it does not fit the conference. The tenor was all business, and the conversation was realistic about the conflicts between work and child-bearing and about building on the substantial record created by previous U.N. gatherings.

Building on a record means action for the United States, as well as China and other countries, and the first action the United States must take here is to ratify CEDAW, the Convention to End Discrimination Against Women, which was submitted for ratification in 1980 and has been pending in the U.S. Senate for 15 years.

Yesterday a group of us called on the Senate to act now. It is embarrassing that 144 countries around the world, including all industrialized countries, have ratified CEDAW and we have not. Act now. Ratify CEDAW.

### OCTOBER 1: A DAY OF ATONEMENT

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk about the October 1 train wreck. This is the Washington term for the day that the Government runs out of money, and in order to get more money, the Congress has to increase the debt ceiling or close down the Government.

Yet the idea of laying off a few bureaucrats is scary to some. In fact, a day without Government to the Democrats is as bad as a day without baseball to Cal Ripken. But it is time to call the question: Do we as a nation want to continue status quo deficit spending, or do we want to balance the budget and get our House in order?

This is what is at stake. October 1 is not a coming train wreck, but a day of atonement. The American people have spoken. They want a balanced budget. Let us give it to them.

### REPUBLICAN MEDICARE CUTS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it appears that the architect of the Republican revolution has not seen the blueprint.

On Sunday, Speaker GINGRICH stated that the Republican Medicare cuts would mean only 7 dollars in increased monthly premiums for Medicare recipients, but yesterday Republican staff corrected the Speaker and admitted that their plan would increase Medicare premiums by \$32 a month, not the \$7 a month the Speaker claimed.

The Republican-controlled Congressional Budget Office estimates that the GOP plan will actually increase premiums by \$56.50 a month.

Why all the confusion? Because, it is not just the American people who are being kept in the dark about the Republican party's plan to cut \$270 billion from Medicare to finance a tax cut for the wealthy. The Republican leadership is also in the dark.

If there is a GOP Medicare plan, it must be written in invisible ink, because nobody has seen it, not even the Speaker.

□ 1030

### THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PETROLEUM MUSEUM

(Mr. COMBEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the petroleum museum in Midland, TX. This nonprofit educational and technical museum highlighting the exciting story of the oil and gas industry was opened by President Gerald Ford on September 13, 1975. It has grown to be one of the top tourist attractions for the Permian Basin and the entire State of Texas.

As one who has toured the museum myself, I was greatly impressed and I would highly recommend a tour for anyone who will be visiting the Permian Basin of Texas and would like to uncover the history of this oil-rich region. The idea for a petroleum museum began in the 1950's and it became a reality through the hard work, dedication, and generosity of the Permian Basin's business and petroleum leaders. Through the past 20 years, many changes have taken place at the museum including an additional wing, educational programs, exhibits, acquisitions of artifacts, archival material, and books.

Countless numbers of schoolchildren and adults have toured the museum learning more about the gasoline that fuels your car to the energy that runs your home. Its fascinating exhibits range from the life-size murals of the hearty men and women who tamed the